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ABSTRACT

In fall 1995, a study was undertaken to determine the effectiveness, according to student perception, of the educational planning system of the San Diego Community College District (California). Of the 26,753 students who enrolled via the district's telephone registration system that fall, 6,937 answered at least one question on an optional survey regarding their satisfaction with the educational planning process. An analysis of their responses revealed the following: (1) 52% of the respondents indicated that they had an educational plan; (2) among all respondents, 40.1% selected their classes based on their educational plan, 29.7% by reviewing a course catalog, 21.5% based on personal interest, and 4.4% based on the requirements of the four-year university that they attended; (3) among respondents who did not have an educational plan, 36.2% felt that they did not need one, either because the catalog provided the information that they needed or because they were not pursuing a degree, and 21.9% were unaware of educational plans; and (4) 59.4% of the respondents did not attend an orientation session because they were not aware of them (39.6%), were already familiar with the college (29.5%), or didn't see value in attending (16.1%). Data tables are appended. Most of the report consists of the student survey with responses. (BCY)

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ED 413 968

Educational Plan Student Survey

Fall 1995

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Educational Plan Student Survey
Fall 1995

Educational planning is a key component of the matriculation programs of the San Diego Community Colleges. One method to determine the effectiveness of the Educational Planning component is to survey students opinions of the educational planning process. This report summarizes the result of the survey, and is part of the matriculation evaluation process instituted by the Research Office in consultation with the campus Vice-Presidents of Student Services.

Of the 26,753 records collected by the CLASSTALK[1] system in fall 1995, 6,937 students answered at least one question on the optional survey with a valid response. Students who answered the survey were similar to all students enrolled in the fall 1995 term with respect to race/ethnicity, age, mean number of cumulative units, enrollment status, and campus attended. Survey respondents were more likely to be female (58.4% compared to 50.9%) and a matriculated student (82.8% compared to 78.6%).

Question 1: Which ONE of the following best describes how you selected your courses this semester.

Districtwide, 40.1% of the survey respondents based their course selection on the educational planning session they had with a counselor, 29.7% by reviewing the catalog, and 4.4% stated it was a requirement at the four-year university they attended (see Figure 1). A quarter of the respondents said that courses were for personal interest (21.5%) or had no particular reason (4.4%) for selecting courses. The distribution of responses was similar across campuses.

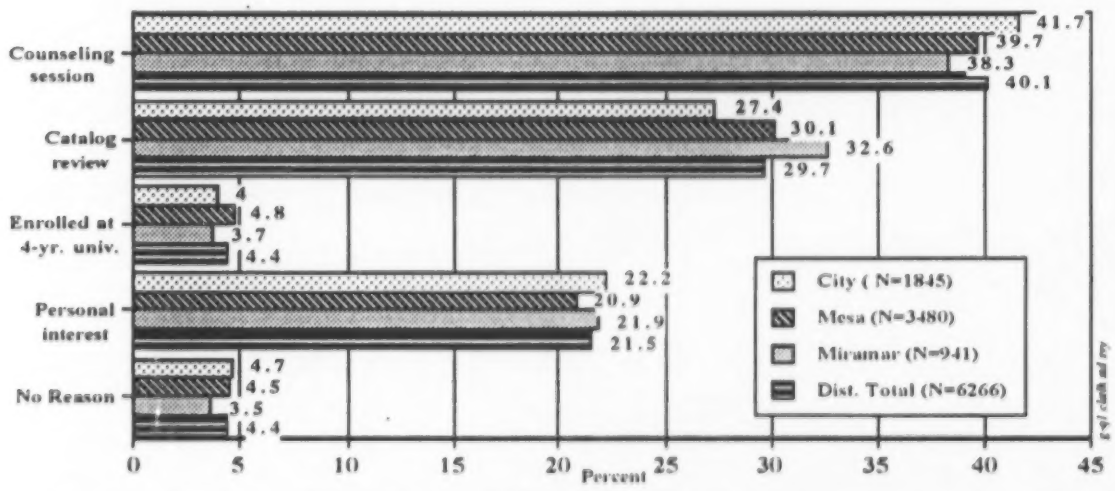

Figure 1: Question 1: Which ONE of the following best describes how you selected your courses this semester.
1. Based on an educational planning session with a counselor.
2. By reviewing program and graduation requirements in the catalog.
3. I am currently enrolled at a 4-year university and the course is required.
4. Course is for personal interest/enrichment.
5. No particular reason.

[1] CLASSTALK is the SDCCD telephone registration system. As part of the system, students are asked to respond to six questions designed to address a particular issue or question.

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Question 2: Have services you have received at this college helped to clarify your educational goals and how to achieve them?

Twenty-eight percent of the respondents (N=1826) said that they had not received any services (27.9%). Of those who did receive services, 79.7% stated that the services were helpful in clarifying their educational goals and how to achieve them.

Question 3: Have you had an educational planning session with a counselor.

Fifty-two percent of the survey respondents (N=3215) indicated that they had met with a counselor to develop an educational plan. The proportion of respondents who had an educational planning session with a counselor was similar across campuses.

Question 4: If you responded NO to question 3, why have you not had an educational planning session?

Of the respondents who did not have an educational planning session, 36.2% did not feel they needed a session (catalog provided information (22.8%) or they were not planning to get a degree or certificate (13.4%)), 21.9% were unaware of an educational plan, and 12.4% tried, but could not get an appointment (see Figure 2). City students were more likely to say that they did not feel they needed an educational planning session, while a higher proportion of Miramar respondents could not get an appointment.

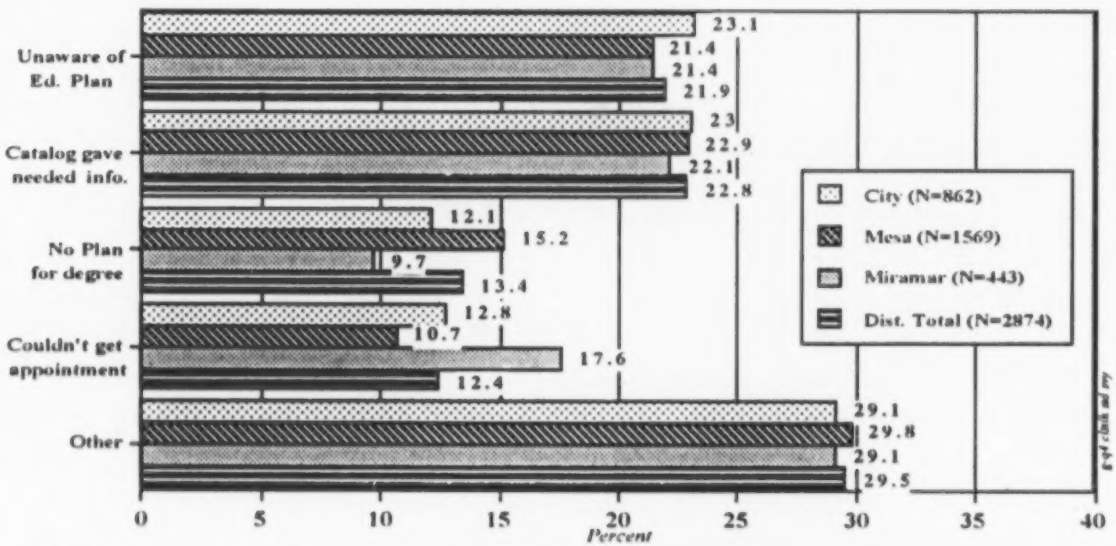

Figure 2: Question 4: Why have you NOT had an educational planning session?*
1. Did not know about an Education Plan.
2. The catalog gave me all the information I needed.
3. Do not plan to get a degree or certificate at this institution.
4. Course is for personal interest/enrichment.
5. Other.

* *Statistically significant at .05 level*

Question 5: Did you attend an orientation session at this college?

The majority of students (59.4%) did not attend an orientation session. City respondents (46.1%) were the most likely to indicate that they had attended an orientation session.

Question 6: If you did not attend an orientation session, why?

Forty percent of those who did not attend an orientation session were not aware of orientation (39.6%), 29.5% indicated they were already familiar with the college, and 16.1% saw no value in attending (see Figure 3). Mesa respondents were more likely to state that they saw no value in attending an orientation session, while a higher proportion of Miramar students were unaware of orientation.

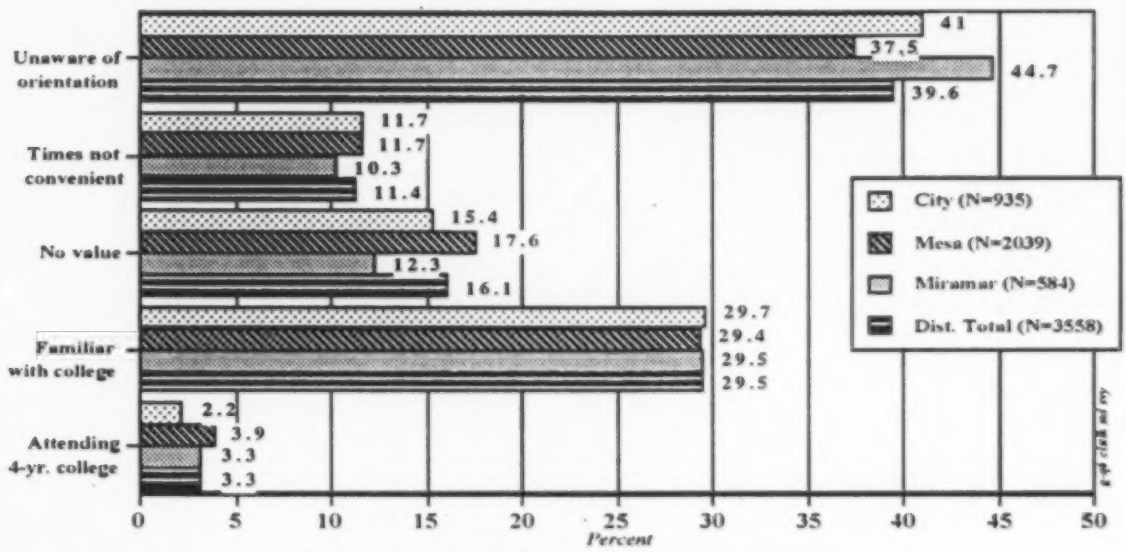

Figure 3:

Question 6: If you did not attend an orientation session, why? *
1. Was not aware of orientation.
2. Times of orientation were not convenient.
3. Did not see value of orientation for my educational purposes.
4. Am already familiar with the college.
5. Am currently attending a 4-year college.

* Statistically significant at .05 level

Summary

Just over half (52.0%) of survey respondents indicated they had an educational plan. Forty percent selected courses based on their plan; 29.7% selected courses by reviewing the college catalog. Of those who did not have an educational plan, 36.2% felt they did not need a plan (catalog provided needed information or no plan to get a degree); 21.9% were unaware of educational plans.

Sixty percent of the respondents did not attend orientation. The most frequently cited reasons for not attending were: Not aware of orientation (39.6%), already familiar with the college (29.5%), or saw no value in attending (16.1%).

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Educational Plan
Student Survey

Appendix A

Question 1

Which ONE of the following best describes how you selected your courses this semester.

Survey Response	City		Mesa		Miramar		District	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Based on an educational planning session with a counselor.	770	41.7	1381	39.7	360	38.3	2511	40.1
By reviewing program and graduation requirements in the catalog.	506	27.4	1047	30.1	307	32.6	1860	29.7
I am currently enrolled at a 4-year university and the course is required.	73	4.0	167	4.8	35	3.7	275	4.4
Course is for personal interest / enrichment.	410	22.2	729	20.9	206	21.9	1345	21.5
No particular reason.	86	4.7	156	4.5	33	3.5	275	4.4

Question 2

Have the services you have received at this college helped to clarify your educational goals and how to achieve them?

Survey Response	City		Mesa		Miramar		District	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
YES	1105	57.4	2088	57.7	573	56.8	3766	57.5
NO	295	15.3	507	14.0	157	15.6	959	14.6
Have not received services.	524	27.2	1024	28.3	278	27.6	1826	27.9

Question 3

Have you had an educational planning session with a counselor?

Survey Response	City		Mesa		Miramar		District	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
YES	912	50.7	1836	52.9	467	50.9	3215	52.0
NO	887	49.3	1632	47.1	450	49.1	2969	48.0

Question 4

If you responded NO to question 3, why have you not had an educational planning session?

Survey Response	City		Mesa		Miramar		District	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Did not know about an Education Plan	199	23.1	336	21.4	95	21.4	630	21.9
The catalog gave me all the information I needed.	198	23.0	359	22.9	98	22.1	655	22.8
Do not plan to get a degree or certificate at this institution.	104	12.1	238	15.2	43	9.7	385	13.4
Tried, but could not get an appointment	110	12.8	168	10.7	78	17.6	356	12.4
Other	251	29.1	468	29.8	129	29.1	848	29.5

Question 5

Did you attend an orientation session at this college?

Survey Response	City		Mesa		Miramar		District	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
YES	824	46.1	1357	39.1	335	35.8	2516	40.6
NO	964	53.9	2113	60.9	600	64.2	3677	59.4

Question 6

If you did not attend an orientation session, why?

Survey Response	City		Mesa		Miramar		District	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Was not aware of orientation.	383	41.0	764	37.5	261	44.7	1408	39.6
Times of orientation were not convenient.	109	11.7	238	11.7	60	10.3	407	11.4
Did not see value of orientation for my educational purposes.	144	15.4	358	17.6	72	12.3	574	16.1
Am already familiar with the college.	278	29.7	600	29.4	172	29.5	1050	29.5
Am currently attending a 4-year college.	21	2.2	79	3.9	19	3.3	119	3.3

Question 1

Which ONE of the following best describes how you selected your courses this semester.

Survey Response	Asian		African American		Caucasian		Latino		Other Non-White	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Based on an Educational planning session with a counselor.	419	56.5	239	44.4	1114	34.8	418	45.5	241	39.8
By reviewing program and graduation requirements in the catalog.	131	17.7	149	27.7	1064	33.3	234	25.5	188	31.1
I am currently enrolled at a 4-year university and the course is required.	52	7.0	21	3.9	114	3.6	44	4.8	30	5.0
Course is for personal interest / enrichment.	94	12.7	105	19.5	784	24.5	179	19.5	117	19.3
No particular reason.	45	6.1	24	4.5	124	3.9	43	4.7	29	4.8

Question 2

Have the services you have received at this college helped to clarify your educational goals and how to achieve them?

Survey Response	Asian		African American		Caucasian		Latino		Other Non-White	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
YES	461	58.1	339	59.3	1888	57.1	595	61.9	361	56.0
NO	190	24.0	74	12.9	413	12.5	128	13.3	109	16.9
Have not received services.	142	17.9	159	27.8	1004	30.4	238	24.8	175	27.1

Question 3

Have you had an educational planning session with a counselor?

Survey Response	Asian		African American		Caucasian		Latino		Other Non-White	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
YES	422	63.8	280	53.0	1580	49.4	510	55.0	309	51.3
NO	239	36.2	248	47.0	1617	50.6	417	45.0	293	48.7

Question 4

If you responded NO to question 3, why have you not had an educational planning session?

Survey Response	Asian		African American		Caucasian		Latino		Other Non-White	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Did not know about an Education Plan	68	30.1	71	29.1	275	17.5	112	27.7	77	27.2
The catalog gave me all the information I needed.	45	19.9	51	20.9	388	24.8	81	20.0	63	22.3
Do not plan to get a degree or certificate at this institution.	27	11.9	26	10.7	252	16.1	34	8.4	23	8.1
Tried, but could not get an appointment.	29	12.8	29	11.9	173	11.0	59	14.6	48	17.0
Other	57	25.2	67	27.5	479	30.6	119	29.4	72	25.4

Question 5

Did you attend an orientation session at this college?

Survey Response	Asian		African American		Caucasian		Latino		Other Non-White	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
YES	369	55.2	239	45.3	1108	34.7	433	46.4	272	45.1
NO	299	44.8	289	54.7	2087	65.3	500	53.6	331	54.9

Question 6

If you did not attend an orientation session, why?

Survey Response	Asian		African American		Caucasian		Latino		Other Non-White	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Was not aware of orientation.	113	39.6	135	48.0	743	36.5	223	46.9	135	42.6
Times of orientation were not convenient.	52	18.2	35	12.5	191	9.4	64	13.5	44	13.9
Did not see value of orientation for my educational purposes.	22	7.7	16	5.7	412	20.2	45	9.5	35	11.0
Am already familiar with the college.	78	27.4	88	31.3	643	31.6	125	26.3	87	27.4
Am currently attending a 4-year college.	20	7.0	7	2.5	47	2.3	18	3.8	16	5.0

Question 1

Which ONE of the following best describes how you selected your courses this semester.

Survey Response	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Based on an Educational planning session with a counselor.	1038	40.6	1458	39.6
By reviewing program and graduation requirements in the catalog.	724	28.3	1127	30.6
I am currently enrolled at a 4-year university and the course is required.	129	5.0	146	4.0
Course is for personal interest / enrichment.	533	20.8	810	22.0
No particular reason.	133	5.2	142	3.9

Question 2

Have the services you have received at this college helped to clarify your educational goals and how to achieve them?

Survey Response	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
YES	1516	56.5	2229	58.0
NO	441	16.4	517	13.5
Have not received services.	724	27.0	1097	28.5

Question 3

Have you had an educational planning session with a counselor?

Survey Response	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
YES	1263	51.0	1932	52.5
NO	1213	49.0	1750	47.5

Question 4

If you responded NO to question 3, why have you not had an educational planning session?

Survey Response	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Did not know about an Education Plan	263	22.5	366	21.5
The catalog gave me all the information I needed.	298	25.5	357	21.0
Do not plan to get a degree or certificate at this institution.	136	11.6	249	14.6
Tried, but could not get an appointment.	141	12.1	214	12.6
Other	330	28.3	515	30.3

Question 5

Did you attend an orientation session at this college?

Survey Response	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
YES	1030	41.2	1468	40.1
NO	1472	58.8	2197	59.9

Question 6

If you did not attend an orientation session, why?

Survey Response	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Was not aware of orientation.	553	38.7	851	40.1
Times of orientation were not convenient.	183	12.8	223	10.5
Did not see value of orientation for my educational purposes.	223	15.6	351	16.5
Am already familiar with the college.	420	29.4	628	29.6
Am currently attending a 4-year college.'	49	3.4	70	3.3

Question 1

Which ONE of the following best describes how you selected your courses this semester.

Survey Response	Day		Evening		Both	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Based on an educational planning session with a counselor.	999	41.8	612	34.3	685	47.1
By reviewing program and graduation requirements in the catalog.	730	30.5	489	27.4	476	32.7
I am currently enrolled at a 4-year university and the course is required.	100	4.2	79	4.4	62	4.3
Course is for personal interest / enrichment.	447	18.7	540	30.3	171	11.8
No particular reason.	114	4.8	64	3.6	60	4.1

Question 2

Have the services you have received at this college helped to clarify your educational goals and how to achieve them?

Survey Response	Day		Evening		Both	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
YES	1498	59.7	987	53.2	957	63.3
NO	369	14.7	245	13.2	235	15.6
Have not received services.	643	25.6	625	33.7	319	21.1

Question 3

Have you had an educational planning session with a counselor?

Survey Response	Day		Evening		Both	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
YES	1283	53.7	800	45.6	872	61.7
NO	1108	46.3	953	54.4	541	38.3

Question 4

If you responded NO to question 3, why have you not had an educational planning session?

Survey Response	Day		Evening		Both	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Did not know about an Education Plan	255	23.8	173	18.8	116	22.1
The catalog gave me all the information I needed.	231	21.5	227	24.7	115	21.9
Do not plan to get a degree or certificate at this institution.	131	12.2	146	15.9	46	8.8
Tried, but could not get an appointment	126	11.7	110	12.0	81	15.4
Other	330	30.8	262	28.5	167	31.8

Question 5

Did you attend an orientation session at this college?

Survey Response	Day		Evening		Both	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
YES	1112	46.4	548	31.2	661	46.9
NO	1287	53.6	1210	68.8	748	53.1

Question 6

If you did not attend an orientation session, why?

Survey Response	Day		Evening		Both	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Was not aware of orientation.	547	43.9	394	33.5	304	42.2
Times of orientation were not convenient.	141	11.3	133	11.3	83	11.5
Did not see value of orientation for my educational purposes.	172	13.8	246	20.9	87	12.1
Am already familiar with the college.	341	27.3	365	31.1	225	31.3
Am currently attending a 4-year college.	46	3.7	37	3.1	21	2.9